



MN-BOM-05-01, Issue 1

Twin Cities Bureau of Mines Research Center Disposition Environmental Impact Statement

www.nps.gov/miss/bom

***Letter from National Park Service
Superintendent,
JoAnn Kyril:***

The National Park Service (NPS) is leading a planning process associated with the disposition of the former Twin Cities Bureau of Mines Research Center (Center) located within the boundary of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA) in Hennepin County, Minnesota. This newsletter is being sent to you as an invitation to join us in the public planning process for the Center and to let you know about the upcoming public open house.

Kim Berns is serving as the project manager. The National Park Service has hired a contractor to assist in the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS). The EIS will be prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and will evaluate the impacts of the proposed disposition of the Center and a range of reasonable alternatives. We invite

your participation in the planning process, including the development of alternatives.

You can help develop and propose alternatives for the Center by attending the upcoming public open houses or by sending us your ideas on suggested uses for the Center, describing how and by whom they might be implemented. It is important to remember the legislation for the Center limits the transfer to university or government entities only.

The public meetings will be held in an open house format and will be held on two different days during daytime and evening hours. Posters, fact sheets, and planning information will be available around the room, and staff from the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be on hand to visit with you, answer your questions, and record your input.

In this newsletter you will be provided with the details and

background about the Center and the planning process. In addition to attending a public meeting, you may submit comments using several methods. Please submit your comments by **May 13, 2005**.

Various ways to comment:

- Return the enclosed comment card with your comments
- Send a letter to the NPS office at: 111 Kellogg Blvd. East; St. Paul, MN 55101
- E-mail comments to miss_bomcomments@nps.gov
- Fax comments to 651.290.3214
- Submit comments by visiting the Web site at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>, scroll down to Mississippi NR&RA and click on BOM project

Public Open House Meeting Dates and Location:

Wednesday, March 30, 2005	1:00 to 3:00 P.M. and 6:00 to 9:00 P.M.
Thursday, March 31, 2005	1:00 to 3:00 P.M. and 6:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Four Points Sheraton Inn (north side of I-94)
400 Hamline Avenue North; St. Paul, Minnesota 55104
Phone: 651.642.1234 Fax: 651.652.1126



The Center is located between Minnehaha Regional Park and Historic Fort Snelling in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Center, closed by Congress in 1995, occupies 27 acres and includes 11 vacated buildings—all within the boundary of the

Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA), a unit of the National Park System. The Center is within the Fort Snelling National Historic Landmark and within a portion of the Fort Snelling National Register of Historic Places District.



Study Area

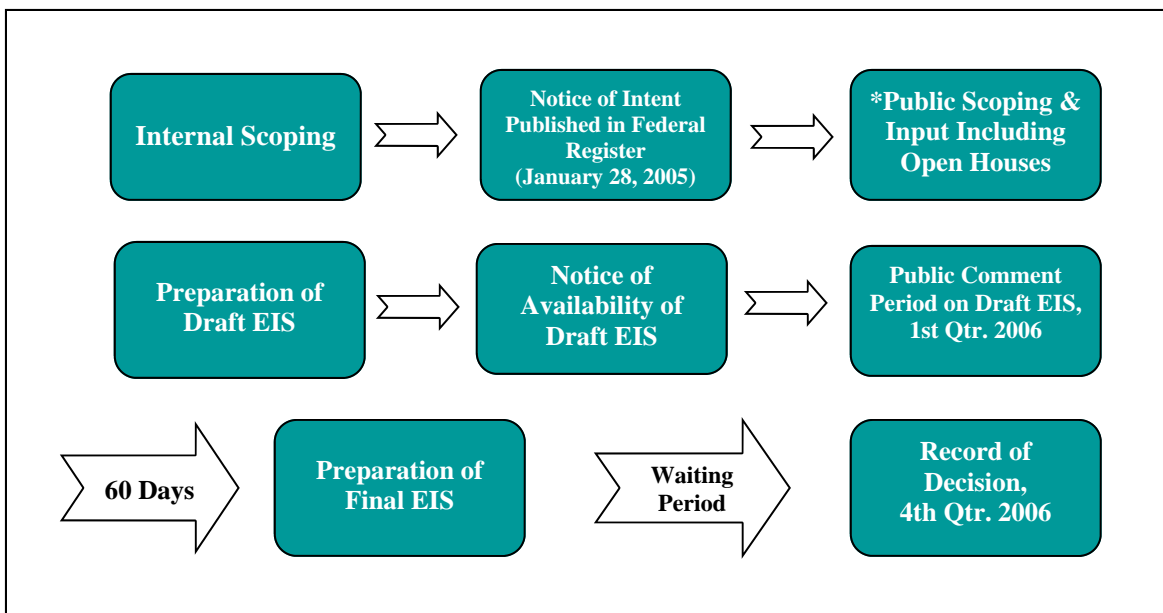
The Center is located in Hennepin County and consists of 27 acres. The need for the project comes from mandates by Congress. In the 2003 Department of the Interior appropriations bill, Congress designated the National Park Service as the lead agency for the public planning process associated with the disposition of the Center. The purpose of the planning process is to consider alternatives for disposition of the property and the potential impacts regarding future uses of the Center on the natural, historic, and cultural resources in an environmental impact statement.

Project Partners

The Secretary of the Interior has assigned the day-to-day management responsibility for the Center to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. An interagency Memorandum of Agreement was signed by both agencies in October of 2004, in an agreement to cooperate on the planning process for the Center. A copy of the Memorandum of Agreement can be found on the Web site at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>.



Where are we now? The Planning Process Timeline



* Indicates where we are now.